

## Homestead Summer Activities from 2-4 pm on Wednesdays

The Mussel Ridge Historical Society has regularly opened the Old Homestead on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. during the summer months—July, August, September—but this year, we thought we'd add something extra-special to entice visitors to gather there. We've organized a series of demonstrations and activities, many involving traditional crafts in danger of dying out if they are not preserved by future generations. The following schedule (tentatively) sets out our schedule for the 13 Wednesdays involved. If the weather does not oblige us, or if someone catches a summer cold, things may change, but here's what we've planned thus far:

**July 5** Join us to make ice cream from a recipe published in the *Owls Head Cookbook*. Copies of the recipe will be available to participants. And, of course, you can sample the creamy dessert!

**July 12** We will host a spinner, Marty Shaw's daughter Sarah, who will show us how the distaff side operates.

**July 19** John Walker will demonstrate how to (re)cane a chair.

**July 26** Maynard Stanley will whip up something delicious, perhaps even using the fireplace at the Old Homestead. Maynard's pioneer cooking recreates how our forebears handled meal preparation.

**August 2** Come enjoy the dulcet sounds of recorders and a bassoon and the sweet twang of fiddles. A musical quartet and a duo will entertain us this fine afternoon!

**August 9** Carolyn Philbrook will show us how to churn butter. Don't worry! There will be samples of the sweet, creamy spread available for consumption with some homemade bread.

**August 16** Maynard Stanley returns to make kettle corn, a delicious snack!

**August 23** Doreen Bickford will lead a session in cornhusk dollmaking. Materials provided—just bring your nimble fingers and creativity!

**August 30** Kay Dodge will show us how to braid rugs, using wool scraps that might otherwise wind up in the dumpster. How crafty is she!

**September 6** "Writing Naturally/Writing in Nature": Join Michelle Miller in the garden of the Old Homestead to compose either a poem or a prose piece inspired by what your senses tell you about the natural world.

**September 13** Jason Philbrook will snap photos of folks wearing period hats. Come have your picture made. Also early photography equipment will be on display.

**September 20** Joanna and Russ will show you how to make sauerkraut. We may have to tap Morse's for samples of a finished product, but you'll leave with the knowhow of making this delicious side.

**September 27** Carolyn Philbrook will press cider, and I'm sure there'll be taste-testing afterward.

None of these activities comes at a charge, but the MRHS is always grateful for your support. Donations will be cheerfully accepted. In addition, many of these demonstrations will take place outside, so remember to bring your

- Camp chair,
- Insect repellent, and
- Sunscreen, maybe even a hat.

You may not need the above items, but if you don't bring them, you know you'll want them. It's a corollary of Murphy's Law!